

Hero
PART 8 (July 26)
"Wonder Woman" (Esther)

Pastor Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Peace

Invocation Prayer

Call to Worship

Pastor: Look at the moment in history where God has placed you. Who knows whether you have come to this specific time for such a time as this?

People: The Lord does not look for the elite or the perfect; He calls ordinary men and women to do extraordinary things.

Pastor: Do not let fear paralyze your hands, and do not keep silent when the vulnerable are targeted and injustice reigns.

People: Rise up with the courage given by the Spirit, and take your stand on the foundation of God's truth!

Pastor: He is your strength when your knees shake, and He goes before you into every battle and every dangerous place.

People: We worship the God who shatters fear, breaks chains, and empowers His people to move with fierce boldness and grace!

Pastor: Jesus is more than a hero, but our Savior!

People: Showing us the way to live a life of truth, grace, and the Christ-centered way!

Hymn

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" – LSB660:1,3-4

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: God of courage, You place us intentionally in specific times and places to carry out Your saving work.

People: When fear whispers to us to remain silent and hidden, fill us with the fierce power of Your Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Grant us the boldness to take risks for the sake of the vulnerable and to act with unwavering faith; through Christ our Lord.

People: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (Jn 8:36) Amen.

Readings

Old Testament: Esther 4:1-17

¹When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. ²He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. ³And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. ⁵Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. ⁶Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, ⁷and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. ⁹And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, ¹¹"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days." ¹²And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. ¹³Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" ¹⁵Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." ¹⁷Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:32-34

³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the

power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Creed

Nicene Creed 1st Sunday, Apostles Creed other weeks

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Sing with All the Saints in Glory" – LSB671

Message

Offering

"Enough" – Chris Tomlin (video)

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Confession/Absolution

Words of Institution & Communion

"Control" – Tenth Avenue North (video)

"Praise and Thanksgiving" – LSB789

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light" – LSB781

Prayer of Thanks

Next Steps & Sending

Closing Hymn/Song

"Graves into Gardens" – Elevation Worship (video)

Sending

P: Go in peace to love & serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.